We claim:

1. A method to control access to logical volumes disposed in an information storage and retrieval system using parallel access volumes, comprising the steps of:

providing an information storage and retrieval system comprising a plurality of logical volumes;

providing a plurality of host computers, wherein each of said plurality of host computers is capable of communicating with said information storage and retrieval system;

forming (N) host computer groups, wherein (N) is greater than or equal to 1;

assigning each host computer to the a host computer group;

forming (N) logical volume groups;

assigning one or more of said plurality of logical volumes to a logical volume group;

creating a parallel access volume having an alias;

persistently associating said parallel access volume with an original base logical volume, wherein said original base logical volume is assigned to the (i)th logical volume group, wherein (i) is greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to (N);

determining the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume;

operative if said current base logical volume is said original base logical volume, permitting each of said one or more host computers assigned to the (i)th host computer group to access said original base logical volume;

operative if said current base logical volume is not said original base logical volume, permitting each of said one or more host computers assigned to the (i)th host computer group to access said current base logical volume.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

requesting by one of said plurality of host computers to access a designated logical volume;

determining that said requesting host computer is assigned to the (j)th host computer group, wherein (j) is greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to (N);

determining if said designated logical volume is a parallel access volume;

operative if said designated logical volume is a parallel access volume, determining the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume;

determining if said current base logical volume is assigned to the (j)th logical volume group;

operative if said current base logical volume is assigned to the (j)th logical volume group, permitting said requesting host to access said current base logical volume;

operative if said current base logical volume is not assigned to the (j)th logical volume group, disallowing said requesting host from accessing said current base logical volume.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to reassign said alias to a different one of said plurality of logical volumes;

determining if said different logical volume and said original base logical volume are assigned to the same logical volume group;

operative if said different logical volume and said original base logical volume are assigned to the same logical volume group, reassigning said alias to said different base logical volume;

operative if said different logical volume and said original base logical volume are not assigned to the same logical volume group, denying the request to assign the alias.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to delete said alias;

deleting said alias.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to assign said original base logical volume;

determining if the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume differs from said original base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume does not differ from said original base logical volume, assigning said original base volume;

operative if the current base logical volume differs from said original base logical volume:

changing the current base logical volume to said original base logical volume; and

assigning said original base logical volume.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to unassign the original base logical volume;

determining if the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume differs from the original base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, unassigning the original base volume;

operative if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume:

changing the current base logical volume to the original base logical volume; and

unassigning said original base logical volume.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to delete said original base logical volume;

deleting said alias and said original base logical volume.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to assign the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume;

determining if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, assigning the current base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume:

reassigning said alias to said original base logical volume; and

assigning said current base logical volume.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to unassign the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume;

determining if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, unassigning the current base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume:

reassigning said alias to said original base logical volume;

unassigning the current base logical volume.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to delete the current base logical volume;

determining if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, deleting the current base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume:

reassigning said alias to said original base logical volume;

deleting the current base logical volume.

11. An article of manufacture comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable program code disposed therein to control access to logical volumes disposed in an information storage and retrieval system using parallel access volumes, wherein said information storage and retrieval system comprises a plurality of logical volumes, and wherein a plurality of host computers are capable of communicating with said information storage and retrieval system, the computer readable program code comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a request from one of said plurality of host computers to access a designated logical volume, wherein said requesting host is assigned to the (j)th host computer group;

determining if said designated logical volume is a parallel access volume comprising an alias;

operative if said designated logical volume is a parallel access volume, determining if the original base logical volume persistently associated with said parallel access volume is assigned to the (j)th logical volume group;

operative if the original base logical volume persistently associated with said parallel access volume is assigned to the (j)th logical volume group, determining if the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume is said original base logical volume;

operative if said current base logical volume is said original base logical volume, permitting each of said one or more host computers assigned to the (j)th host computer group to access said original base logical volume;

operative if said current base logical volume is not said original base logical volume, permitting each of said one or more host computers assigned to the (j)th host computer group to access said current base logical volume.

12. The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein a first person owns said requesting host computer, and wherein a second person owns said article of manufacture.

13. The article of manufacture of claim 11, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a request to reassign said alias to a different one of said plurality of logical volumes;

determining if said different logical volume and said original base logical volume are assigned to the same logical volume group;

operative if said different logical volume and said original base logical volume are assigned to the same logical volume group, reassigning said alias to said different base logical volume;

operative if said different logical volume and said original base logical volume are not assigned to the same logical volume group, denying the request to assign the alias.

14. The article of manufacture of claim 11, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a request to delete said alias;

deleting said alias.

15. The article of manufacture of claim 11, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a request to assign said original base logical volume;

determining if the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume differs from said original base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume does not differ from said original base logical volume, assigning said original base volume;

operative if the current base logical volume differs from said original base logical volume:

changing the current base logical volume to said original base logical volume; and

assigning said original base logical volume.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 11, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a request to unassign said original base logical volume;

determining if the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume differs from said original base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, unassigning the original base volume;

operative if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume:

changing the current base logical volume to the original base logical volume; and

unassigning said original base logical volume.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 11, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a request to delete said original base logical volume;

deleting said alias and said original base logical volume.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 11, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a request to assign the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume;

determining if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, assigning the current base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume:

reassigning said alias to said original base logical volume; and

assigning said current base logical volume.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 11, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a request to unassign the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume;

determining if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, unassigning the current base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume:

reassigning said alias to said original base logical volume;

unassigning the current base logical volume.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 11, said computer readable program code further comprising a series of computer readable program steps to effect:

receiving a request to delete the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume differs;

determining if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, deleting the current base logical volume;

operative if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume:

reassigning said alias to said original base logical volume;

deleting the current base logical volume.

21. A computer program product usable with a programmable computer processor having computer readable program code embodied therein to control access to logical volumes disposed in an information storage and retrieval system using parallel access volumes, wherein said information storage and retrieval system comprises a plurality of logical volumes, and wherein a plurality of host computers are capable of communicating with said information storage and retrieval system, comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a request from one of said plurality of host computers to access a designated logical volume, wherein said requesting host is assigned to the (j)th host computer group;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if said designated logical volume is a parallel access volume comprising an alias, wherein said parallel access volume is persistently associated with an original base logical volume, and wherein said plurality of logical volumes includes said original base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if said designated logical volume is a parallel access volume, causes said programmable computer processor to determine the current base logical volume for said parallel access volume;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if said current base logical volume is assigned to the (j)th logical volume group;

computer readable program code which, if said current base logical volume is assigned to the (j)th logical volume group, causes said programmable computer processor to permit said requesting host to access said current base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if said current base logical volume is not assigned to the (j)th logical volume group, causes said programmable computer processor to disallow access to said current base logical volume.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, wherein a first person owns said requesting host computer, and wherein a second person owns said article of manufacture.

23. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a request to reassign said alias to a different one of said plurality of logical volumes;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if said different logical volume and said original base logical volume are assigned to the same logical volume group;

computer readable program code which, if said different logical volume and said original base logical volume are assigned to the same logical volume group, causes said programmable computer processor to reassign said alias to said different base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if said different logical volume and said original base logical volume are not assigned to the same logical volume group, causes said programmable computer processor to deny the request to assign the alias.

24. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a request to delete said alias;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to delete said alias.

25. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a request to assign said original base logical volume;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume differs from said original base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if the current base logical volume does not differ from said original base logical volume, causes said programmable computer processor to assign said original base volume;

computer readable program code which, if the current base logical volume differs from said original base logical volume, causes said programmable computer processor to change the current base logical volume to said original base logical volume, and assign said original base logical volume.

26. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a request to unassign the original base logical volume;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume differs from the original base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, causes said programmable computer processor to unassign the original base volume;

computer readable program code which, if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume, causes said programmable computer processor to change the current base logical volume to the original base logical volume, and unassign said original base logical volume.

27. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a request to delete said original base logical volume;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to delete said alias and said original base logical volume.

28. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a request to assign the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, causes said programmable computer processor to assign the current base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume, causes said programmable computer processor to

reassign said alias to said original base logical volume, and assign said current base logical volume.

29. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a request to unassign the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, causes said programmable computer processor to unassign the current base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume, causes said programmable computer processor to reassign said alias to said original base logical volume, and unassign the current base logical volume.

30. The computer program product of claim 31, further comprising t:

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to receive a request to delete the current base logical volume associated with said parallel access volume differs;

computer readable program code which causes said programmable computer processor to determine if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if the current base logical volume does not differ from the original base logical volume, causes said programmable computer processor to delete the current base logical volume;

computer readable program code which, if the current base logical volume differs from the original base logical volume, causes said programmable computer processor to reassign said alias to said original base logical volume, delete the current base logical volume.